

Re: POST vs. separate methods

From: Ben Laurie (ben@gonzo.ben.algroup.co.uk)

Date: Tue, Oct 29 1996



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Subject: Re: POST vs. separate methods
To: Larry Masinter <masinter@parc.xerox.com>
Date: Tue, 29 Oct 1996 20:40:18 +0000 (GMT)
From: Ben Laurie <ben@gonzo.ben.algroup.co.uk>
Cc: gjw@wnetc.com, ejw@kleber.ics.uci.edu, w3c-dist-auth@w3.org
Message-ID: <9610292040.aa17741@gonzo.ben.algroup.co.uk>

Larry Masinter wrote:

>
> I was thinking more of a return header from ANY request that
> identified a set of other URLs whose cache entries should be marked
> stale. So, if you POST a new entry to
>
> <http://host.dom/container>
>
> you might get back a return header that it updated:
>
> <http://host.dom/container/3q96/by-date>
> <http://host.dom/container/3q96/by-author>
>
> or (even)
> http://host.dom/container/3q96/*
>
> This puts the computational burden on the update method rather than
> retrieval, and is predicated on an assumption that reads happen far
> more frequently than writes.

I like this idea - but it isn't very practical, I fear. If the request is handled by a CGI, then how does the server know what's been updated? For highly automated sites, the list of URLs could be huge. In fact, a set of URLs which access a database is pretty much a one-way function as far as calculating validity goes (though I did have this crazy idea about inverse SQL once...).

Cheers,

Ben.

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